

Vol 3) ASHFORD FRO Region 12

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR

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ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH OF ASHFORD

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

J. MARSHALL

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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Medical Officer of Health (Ashford Urban District Council)
Principal Medical Officer (Kent County Council)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE

LOCAL AUTHORITY, 1953

Medical Officer of Health (A.U.D.C.) and Principal
Medical Officer (K.C.C.)

MARSHALL, J., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

HARLAND, H.J., Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certificated
Meat Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

HAMMOND, S.F., Cert.S.I.E.J.B., M.S.I.A., Certificate
Meat Inspector.

ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1953

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Ashford Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1953.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year Home Population was 25,460. Pre-war in mid-1939 the estimate was 22,460. The Population has, therefore, increased by exactly 3,000 since 1939. During the post-war years, it has increased by 2,290, and has accentuated the problems of housing which the Council has had to face since the war when building was at a standstill and in addition many properties were destroyed or damaged. Since 1946, the Council has provided 1,220 units of housing, including flats and old people's bungalows. This considerable achievement has 'broken the back' of the post-war housing crisis; for example the waiting list of applicants with two or more children is now relatively small. Although there are no large slum-clearance areas in the District, the time is opportune to take account of these and other sub-standard houses in future housing programmes.

The number of deaths during the year was 266, and the death-rate was accordingly 10.45; adjusted by the Registrar General's comparability factor which standardises the population for age and sex distribution and allows comparison with other Districts, the rate becomes 9.09; that for England and Wales was 11.4.

The majority of deaths were amongst the aged, due to Heart and Circulatory or Vascular Diseases, concomitant with the degenerative processes of old age.

Cancer, as usual, caused the second highest number of deaths, viz. 39. Of those, 9 were caused by Cancer of the lung (8 males and 1 female). Since 1950, Cancer of the lung and bronchus has been separately classified in the vital statistics of the Registrar General, and the figures for 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1953 have been respectively 3 (all male), 6 (all male), 6 (5 male, 1 female), 9 (8 male, 1 female). These figures are small for statistical purposes but the predominance of male deaths is noteworthy, in relation to statements that the inhalation of tobacco smoke is associated with the causation. The ages at death were, 37, 46, 47, 49, 49, 57, 57, 59, and 78 years. The fact remains however that the great majority of smokers do not get Cancer of the lung and if tobacco smoke is one of the causes, it occurs in a very small proportion of smokers, who may be more susceptible in some way.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no unusual influence.

The number of infant deaths was 9, giving an infantile mortality rate of 26.8 per 1,000 live births. The chief cause was prematurity viz. 4 deaths. The other causes will be seen from the table on page 9. So many unknown factors, personal and environmental, influence the nature of these deaths, as to make precise definition of the major cause complicated and problematical, but there is no doubt that the Medical and Nursing services, including the Ante-natal and Child Welfare Services, prevent many more deaths amongst infants. It is gratifying to record that there was no death amongst mothers, relative to the 350 births and 6 still-births - which is an index of skilled and careful ante-natal and obstetric attention.

There were 6 still-births and the rate was according to 16.85, which is lower than that for England and Wales, 22.4. It has been shown in Hospital practice that prerequisites to a low rate are skilled ante-natal and obstetric attention.

There was one death from Infectious Disease, viz. Whooping Cough, complicated by Broncho-pneumonia; this complication is the usual cause of death with Whooping Cough, and is particularly dangerous in infants in whom it may appear suddenly and progress to a fatal termination within 24 - 48 hours; treatment, therefore, must be begun early to be successful. It is hoped that the strong claims being made that the new vaccines being produced, effective immunising agents, will be substantiated by the Medical Research Council. This would seem to be the only effective measure of control, as the disease is spread amongst susceptible children before the paroxysm or whoop occurs, until when it is usually not recognised by the parents. Immunisation against Diphtheria has unequivocally proved its worth, and appears to have virtually eliminated the disease throughout the Country; no cases have occurred in this District since 1948.

There was the usual epidemic of Measles, but there were no deaths amongst the 352 notified cases. Gamma globulin is still available at the County Laboratory to prevent or attenuate an attack in a child, in whose case it is necessary to use it, as, for example, when a child is in poor health or ill from another disease.

Eleven cases of Scarlet Fever occurred, but on only two cases was it necessary to remove them to Hospital, the other nine being mild in type. The causal organism produces in its present phase a mild form of the disease and these cases may well be nursed at home provided in the case of school-children that release swabs of nose and throat are taken before return to school as occasionally small epidemics have been traced to convalescent carriers. The chief complication met with in this District is Otitis Media, the others such as Endocarditis or Nephritis being now extremely rare. It is also, frequently, extremely difficult to differentiate Scarlet Fever from German Measles and in these cases of doubt, nose and throat swabs should be taken for the presence or absence of the Haemolytic Streptococcus.

There were three cases of paralytic Poliomyelitis. The first occurred in June in a child aged five years. The second case occurred late in August in a female aged 60 years who died, the disease having been bulbar in type, and the third case occurred in October in a child aged eight

years. The two children made relatively good recoveries. Those children attended schools in different districts and no relationship of any kind could be found between all three cases. The disease was first recognised in this Country over 150 years ago and it is probable that it has been endemic for Centuries. Following the war, there has been a marked increase in the number of cases and it is reasonable to assume that new strains of the virus have been introduced from abroad; and that a gradual immunity against them will be developed. It is also hoped that Research work at present proceeding will produce an effective vaccine for immunisation.

Two sporadic unrelated cases of Sonne Dysentery were notified, but no original source of infection could be found.

Also there was one isolated case of Food Poisoning, caused by the Salmonella typhi-murium which is the most common organism to be incriminated amongst the few cases that occur in this area. Suspected food is usually all consumed or destroyed before the causal organism is identified and for this reason cases of food-poisoning are often not traceable to the source.

Three cases of Erysipelas were notified, but this disease is not the serious illness it was before the introduction of the Sulphonamides and Antibiotics which provide highly successful means of treatment.

Twenty new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two new cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Prior to 1950, the annual average of new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis was 19. Since 1950, the number of new cases has been 11, 7, 12, in 1950, 1951 and 1952 respectively. The number in 1953 has therefore lapsed to the former average, and indicates that there is still an appreciable reservoir of infection in the District. Facilities for ascertainment, including Mass Radiography, have improved however and although the number of new cases found may be relatively high for a few further years, their elimination as sources of infection should eventually be shown in the statistics by a decline in the number of new cases.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and co-operation in the work of the Department and the staff for their loyal and efficient service.

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THEDISTRICT FOR 1953AREA: 5,719 acres.REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S ESTIMATE OF:

The Resident Population 25,460

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES ACCORDING
TO THE RATE BOOKS

... .. 8,245

RATEABLE VALUE: £168,817SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE £710SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ashford is both an agricultural and an industrial town and a business and shopping centre for the large rural community which surrounds it. It merits importance by containing the largest agricultural market in Kent and in having a railway junction where five lines converge, associated with which is a large Railway Works. There is also a number of other Factories, viz. Cycle Works, Iron Foundry, Printing Works, Agricultural Repair Shops, Flour Mills, Marine and Industrial Works, and Ordnance Depot, and Bread Factory.

At present there is little unemployment in this District and in general apart from the shortage of houses, social conditions are fairly satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Ashford Urban District</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. Live Births	350	165	185	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.75	15.5
(a) Legitimate	332	156	176			
(b) Illegitimate	18	9	9			
2. Stillbirths	6	5	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	16.85	22.4
(a) Legitimate	6	5	1			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
3. Deaths	266	124	142	Death rate per 1,000 resident population	10.45	11.4
4. Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	-	0.76
5. Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.	9	3	6			
(a) Legitimate	8	2	6			
(b) Illegitimate	1	1	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					25.71	26.8
Rate re legitimate infants					24.10	
Rate re illegitimate					55.56	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					39	
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					1	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea (all ages)					2	

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ASHFORD URBAN DISTRICTDURING 1953

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
ALL CAUSES					124	142
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	2	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	-
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	1
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasytic diseases	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	4	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	8	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	12	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	-
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	2	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	10	19
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	20	20
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	3	3
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	16	35
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	7	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	4
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	6
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	13	11
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	4	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	8	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	4	2
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-

SECTION B.GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE
DISTRICT1. Laboratory Facilities

The Central Laboratory in County Hall, is the principal laboratory in the County for the Public Health Services and also for the Hospital and Practitioner Services where none is provided in the local Hospitals. The Service is comprehensive and adequately meets the needs of this District.

2. Ambulance and Hospital Car Service

The County Council is the responsible Authority for the administration of this Service in Kent, but in this District, the Service is conducted in co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who provided a panel of Voluntary Ambulance Driver/Attendants whose efficiency and devotion to duty merits high appreciation. There are in addition seven full-time Driver/Attendants. The number of operative Ambulances is three, and that of Sitting Cars, 2; the latter are engaged in about two thirds of the Hospital Car Service, and the remainder of Sitting Cars are provided by a panel of Voluntary Private Car Owners, who are re-imbursed on a mileage basis of payment. The Service is adequate for the requirements of the District and is operated very efficiently.

3. Treatment Centres and Clinics.

All Maternity and Child Welfare, School, and Dental Clinics are administered by the County Council.

The following Clinics are held in Ashford:-

(i) Station Road. This is the Central and chief clinic and is contained in an "ad hoc" building. The Outlying clinics are complementary. Sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week from 2.15 p.m.

(ii) Women's Institute Hall, Church Road, North Willesborough.

Sessions are held at 2.15 p.m. on alternate Fridays.

(iii) The Adult School Hall, Gladstone Road, South Willesborough.

Sessions at 2.15 p.m. on Fridays alternating with the North Willesborough Clinic.

(iv) The Women's Institute Hall, Faversham Road, Kennington.

Sessions are held at 2.15 p.m. on alternate Wednesdays.

(v) The Kingsford Memorial Hall, Kingsnorth Road, Ashford.

Sessions at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesdays alternating with Kennington Clinic.

Ante-natal, Post-natal and Women's Welfare Clinics.

These Clinics are held in the Station Road centre on every Monday afternoon at 2.15 p.m.

(i) The following four clinics of the School Medical Service are held at 14, Canterbury Road, Ashford.

- (a) Dental Clinic
- (b) Ophthalmic Clinic
- (c) Minor Ailment Clinic
- (d) Speech Therapy Clinic

(e) Orthopaedic Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital, is administered by the Regional Hospitals Board and appointments are made by the County Public Health Department on behalf of school-children. It is held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 2 p.m.

(ii) Venereal Diseases Clinics.

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10 - 11 a.m. for Females and from 11 - 12 noon for Males.

(iii) Tuberculosis Clinic

This clinic is held at Ashford Hospital weekly on Tuesdays from 9.30 a.m.

(iv) Hospitals

- (a) Ashford General. Accommodation - approximately 137 beds
- (b) Willesborough General. Accommodation - 147 beds.
- (c) Infectious Diseases. Accommodation 40 beds.
- (d) Grosvenor Sanatorium (Private). Accommodation - 265 beds

(4) Private Nursing Homes.

The two Private Nursing Homes were closed during the year and there is now none in the District. The former Nursing Home at 260, Hythe Road, changed ownership and was registered by the County Council as a Private Old People's Home.

(5) Home Nursing and Midwifery Services.

These Services are also administered by the County Council. There are six Home Nurse/Midwives on duty in the District who are engaged in Midwifery, Maternity Nursing, and Home Nursing of the sick. The standard of service given by the Nurses is high and there is excellent co-operation between them and the Practitioners. The majority of patients nursed in the home are elderly chronic sick, many of whom are awaiting beds in Hospital which are still inadequate in number to accommodate each new case as it arises. The service is fully adequate for the needs of the District.

(6) The Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

This Service, which is administered by the County Council is of great value to the mothers and their children under five years. The five Centres are conveniently situated and attendances were well maintained at a satisfactory level.

The work at the Clinics is chiefly preventive in character and is reflected in the improving health of the children and in the decreasing number of infant illnesses, defects and deaths. The work of the Health Visitors is unobtrusive and unspectacular but is none-the-less of the greatest value in the prevention of illness in children; also infestations by lice, fleas and scabies in children are now few in this District and this is largely due to the constant supervision which has been maintained by the Health Visitors.

The following table gives the causes of death amongst infants during the year, most of which may be regarded as having been unavoidable.

Months	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Prematurity	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Morbis Cordis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatal Asphyxia Pallida	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Broncho-Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anaphylaxis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malnutrition	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There has been no Maternal Death since 1948. This is a gratifying record and an index of skilled attention by all who are engaged in the Midwifery Services.

7. The Domestic Help Service.

This valuable Service is also administered by the County Council through Area and Local Domestic Help Organisers and the District Officers. Although a sliding scale of charges is made, the cost of the Service is high and the number of hours of help allocated to individual cases is restricted to a practicable minimum. Nevertheless, the real needs of a household are usually met. The majority of people requiring help are amongst the aged, infirm and chronic sick and those next on the list are Maternity patients who may have help for seven hours per day for two weeks; the minority are patients suffering from miscellaneous illnesses.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply.

The water supply within the Urban District is provided by two undertakings, viz., by Ashford Urban District Council and by the Mid-Kent Water Company.

The Council provides the supply for Central and South Ashford and North and South Willesborough, and the Mid-Kent Water Company for Kemington.

Ashford Urban District Council Undertakings.

This supply is obtained from the following three sources.

(i) Westwell

An additional gravel-screen bore-hole, making four in all, at this Station was completed in August, 1953. Pumping plant is installed to abstract 10,000 gallons per hour from each bore-hole. A softening plant (Clark's Process) is in operation here. The water is pumped by an electrically-driven pump to a covered reservoir (capacity 1,000,000 gallons) at Potter's Corner, from where it enters the supply network. There is a connection between this reservoir and two stand-by reservoirs (280,000 and 36,000 gallons respectively) at Barrow Hill and a connection with the Mid-Kent Water Company's supply at Potter's Corner for emergency use. There is a further connection for emergency use with the Mid-Kent Water Company's supply in the Canterbury Road at Little Bybrook.

(ii) Henwood

This supply comes from four wells with interconnecting adits, approximately 40 feet deep. From the electrically driven pumps (with stand-by steam plant) the water is pumped into the supply network and the surplus is diverted into the reservoir at Potter's Corner.

The above two supply the whole of Central and South Ashford.

(iii) Hinxhill

This water comes from a borehole approximately 200 feet deep, being raised by compressed air into a storage adit. It is then pumped by Reciprocating and Centrifugal pumps to a covered reservoir at Broomfields (100,000 gallons) from where it enters the supply network for the whole of North and South Willesborough. There is a connection for emergency use with the Central and South Ashford supplies at the Railway Bridge, Hythe Road.

The waters from these three sources are all chlorinated, as an additional measure of safety, though the untreated waters have in successive years been of excellent bacteriological and chemical quality.

Samples

By arrangement with the County Laboratory, quarterly bacteriological samples are taken, two from each of the three sources. Also three samples for chemical analysis were taken half-yearly at the three sources.

Examination of Samples taken during the Year.

	<u>Bacteriological</u>		<u>Chemical</u>	
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Results</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Result</u>
Raw Water	33	32 Satisfactory 1 Unsatisfactory	15	15 Satisfactory
Treated Water	64	64 Satisfactory	9	9 Satisfactory

There are 13 houses not connected to the public supply mains and 9 of these are situate in Beaver Lane and 4 in Chart Road. 8,232 houses are connected to the public mains.

The Mid-Kent Water Company.

(i) Barham

This water is taken from the chalk, the well being about 200 feet deep. It is pumped to Hastingleigh Reservoir (capacity 500,000 gallons) from where it reaches the Kennington supply network.

(ii) Charing

This water is obtained from the greensand and the borings are approximately 160 feet deep. It is pumped to Fairbourne and Charing Hill Reservoirs (capacity 1,000,000 and 283,500 gallons respectively. These reservoirs afford a subsidiary or auxiliary supply to Kennington.

Samples

Monthly bacteriological and quarterly chemical samples are taken. These, during the year were Class 1 waters bacteriologically and were chemically of good organic quality.

2. Drainage and Sewerage

There was no major development during the year.

Total number of inhabited houses (including flats) is	...	...	...	...	...	8,245
Total number of houses connected to the sewers	...	...	...	...	...	8,015
Number of houses not connected to the sewers	...	...	...	...	...	230

3. Swimming Baths

The Ashford Urban District Council Bath was in full use during the season. The water is chlorinated by a break-point chlorinator and there is also an electric suction sweeper for cleansing the basin of the bath. The size of the bath is 100 x 25 yards, and its capacity 600,000 gallons. Regular samples of the water were sent for bacteriological examination, and all were satisfactory. (B.Coli presumptive, absent in 100 c.c.s.)

4. Eradication of Vermin

The number of houses found to be infested with vermin was as follows:-

	<u>Bugs</u>	<u>Fleas</u>
Council houses	5	8
Other houses	8	18

All these premises were disinfested by means of 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene in spray form. This form of disinfestation proved very efficacious, as none of these houses needed a second treatment. The number of houses

found to be infested with bugs has steadily decreased since the war, co-incident with the use of D.D.T.

Other forms of infestations occasionally dealt with included beetles, ants, earwigs and wasps.

5. Rats and Mice Destruction.

A free rodent destruction service has been built up and this is available to occupiers of dwelling-houses. A charge is made in the case of business premises. Routine measures to destroy rats in the area include the regular baiting of sewers which receive six-monthly treatments and more frequently in the town area where the sewers are more favourable to the spread of rat infestation. The Council refuse dump at Chilmington is regularly treated by the methods of gassing and poison-baiting.

The number of infestations treated during the year was 112 (rats) and 74 (mice).

6. Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Details of Inspection work carried out:-

					<u>No. of Visi</u> <u>and re-visi</u>
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	29
Dairies	...	...	...	...	28
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	438
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	4
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...	169
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	...
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	49
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	52
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	22
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	173
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	...	161
Ice Cream Vendors and Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	140
Rat and Mice Destruction...	...	...	...	...	810
Other Vermin	...	...	...	...	28
Housing Repairs	...	...	...	...	1401
Housing - overcrowding	...	...	...	...	72
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	21
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	20
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	14
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	8
Drainage Repairs	...	...	...	...	136
Drainage Cleansing	...	...	...	...	74
Sanitary Accommodation	...	...	...	...	120
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	251
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	52
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	55
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	30
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	37
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	20
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	39
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	470

Total 4,923

Work completed

Wash-hand Basins	...	...	...	...	2
Brickwork Repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Houses at which drains were repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Choked drains cleared	...	...	...	...	6
Intercepting traps fixed	...	...	...	...	-
Gully traps fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Inspection chambers built	...	...	...	...	2
New covers provided...	...	...	...	...	3
Soil and Vent pipes fixed or repaired...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply pipes repaired or renewed..	...	...	...	...	9
Sink waste pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Sinks renewed	...	...	...	...	3
W.C. Pans fixed	...	...	...	...	6
Additional W.C. fixed	...	...	...	...	6
W.C. compartments ventilated	...	...	...	...	-
W.C. seats renewed	...	...	...	...	3
W.C.s repaired or rebuilt...	...	...	...	...	6
New flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	4
Flushing cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	15
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	35
Eaves, gutters and fall pipes	...	...	...	...	42
Chimney pot replaced	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Outbuildings	...	...	...	...	-
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	2
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Yard paving renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Stoves repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
Rooms cleansed and/or disinfested	...	...	...	...	13
Window frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	16
Sashcords repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	20
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Rooms redecorated	...	...	...	...	10
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	6
Dampness in walls remedied	...	...	...	...	33
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Wash coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Staircase repaired	...	...	...	...	-
Sub-floor ventilation	...	...	...	...	5
Sanitary bins provided	...	...	...	...	-
External rendering	...	...	...	...	7
Window sill repaired	...	...	...	...	7

FACTORIES ACT, 19371. Inspections for purposes of provision as to health
(including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Reg- ister	Inspec- tions.	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	43	49	2	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	146	159	7	-
iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	10	10	-	-
Total	199	218	9	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which Prosecution were Instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	5	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Convenience					
(a) insufficient ...	3	3	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	1	1	2	-	-
Total	17	17	2	3	-

SECTION D.Housing

The number of dwellings completed during the year was as follows:-

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1946 - 1953</u> (Inclusive)
(i) Prefabricated temporary bungalows	-	144
(ii) New permanent houses:-		
<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	9
(b) 3 " "	-	364
(c) 4 " "	-	21
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	40
(b) 3 " "	-	73
(c) 4 " "	-	3
<u>Osborne Road Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	-	28
(b) 3 " "	-	175
(c) 4 " "	-	4
<u>Repton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	26	30
(b) 3 " "	60	60
<u>Burton Estate</u>		
(a) 2 bedroom type	24	24
(b) 3 " "	22	22
(iii) <u>Flats</u>		
<u>Musgrove Estate</u>		
(a) Gregory Flats	-	16
(b) Bed-sitting room type	-	20
(c) 2 bedroom Easiform type	-	16
<u>Woolreeds Estate</u>		
(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	6
(b) 2 bedroom type	-	6
<u>Godfrey Walk</u>		
(a) Bed-sitting room type	-	13
(b) 1 bedroom type	-	27
(c) 2 " "	-	28
<u>Waterside House and East Stour Farm</u>	-	13
<u>Repton Estate</u>	36	36
(iv) <u>Old People's Bungalows</u>		
(a) <u>Burton Estate</u>	12	12
(v) <u>Hutment Units</u> (Stanhope Camp)	-	30
Total number of units provided by the Council	180	1,220
Number provided by private enterprise	42	149

Analysis of Applications for Council Houses registered to 30th June, 1954.

					Applications received from 1-6-53 to 30-6-54
Childless couples	...	...	...	205	116
With one child	...	...	...	110	54
" two children	...	...	...	45	36
" " "	At present these are householders who will need larger dwellings as ages of children increase				
				15	
" three children	...	...	...	28	21
" four children	...	...	...	9	8
" five or more children	...	...	...	6	6
Bed sitting room flats	...	...	...	33 451	14 28

Applicants working in Ashford who are adequately housed in other districts

Childless couples	...	...	...	22	11
With one child	...	...	...	25	10
" two children	...	...	...	24	14
" three children	...	...	...	9	6
" four or more children	...	...	...	7 87	6

Applicants living in the Urban District who are householders, and considered to have adequate accommodation

141

Applicants not considered eligible, i.e. still serving in H.M. Forces etc., and not at present residing in the Urban District

22

TOTAL

701

	Pre-War Houses	Post War Dwellings		
		Houses	Flats	Flats, Godfrey
Premises vacated and re-let during - 1952	30	30	7	6
1953	17	17	11	10
to June 1954	10	11	6	4
	57	58	24	20

SECTION E.INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk Supplies

There are in the Urban District 7 Producers of milk of whom 3 are Producer Retailers. Of the Producers 4 produce Tuberculin Tested Milk, 2 Accredited and 1 Undesignated milk. There are 25 registered distributors of milk.

Dairies are regularly inspected to ensure that the standards prescribed by the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 are maintained. Samples of milk are taken regularly from dairies and were satisfactory. Periodic samples of milk are taken for examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli and during the year 16 such samples all gave negative results.

In addition samples are taken regularly under the Milk Testing Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture, whose Regional Laboratory is situated in the District.

During the year, the following samples were taken for bacteriological examination:-

			<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	4	-
Undesignated	...	...	5	-
Pasteurised	...	...	16	-
Raw Milk	...	...	16	-

Ice Cream

A very large quantity of ice-cream is consumed by the Public not only during the Summer months but also throughout the Winter months. A high standard of hygiene in manufacture, storage and sale is therefore constantly essential to maintain bacteriological purity. Regular inspection of premises is necessary to ensure the observance of scrupulous cleanliness with particular regard to the method by which it is served to the customer. Hand washing facilities must be provided with both hot and cold water and soap and clean towels readily available.

65 shops sell pre-wrapped ice-cream only, and 10 shops and cafes sell unwrapped in addition to wrapped ice cream. 28 samples were taken during the year of which 22 were classified Grade 1, 2 - Grade 11, 4 - Grade 111, 0 - Grade 1V by the County Laboratory (Methylene Blue Test), and no disease producing organisms were found. Where samples were not of Grade 1 standard investigations were made at both the retailer's and manufacturer's premises.

There is only one manufacturer and the firm must comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 - 1951. All persons manufacturing, storing or selling ice-cream must register their premises with the Local Authority, (Food and Drugs Act, 1948), excepting Clubs, Hotels, Restaurants, Theatres and Cinemas.

Meat and Other Foods.Unsound Food (Food and Drugs Act, 1938)Unsound Food Surrendered

	<u>lbs.</u>		<u>lbs.</u>
Ham	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	Mincedmeat	23 $\frac{1}{4}$
Brawn	6	Meat & Vegetables...	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tongue	16	Sausages	41 $\frac{3}{4}$
Veal Loaf/Beef Loaf	217 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tinned Milk	323 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bacon	1237 $\frac{1}{2}$	Vegetables	397
Stewed Steak...	72 $\frac{3}{4}$	Soup	19 $\frac{3}{4}$
Luncheon Meat ...	636	Fruit	2103 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fish	76 $\frac{1}{4}$	Tomatoes	202 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cheese	21	Pickles and Sauces	21
Fruit Juices	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	Imported Meat & Offal	756 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jam	55 $\frac{1}{4}$	Chocolate	168
Marmalade	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Spaghetti	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Rabbit	43		
Fat	14		
Corned Beef	60 $\frac{1}{2}$		

Total weight condemned : 2 tons 19 cwts. 3 Qtrs. $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Twenty-seven registered food-preparing premises, and shops, stalls and vehicles, etc., where food is sold were frequently inspected for unsound food.

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

Meat Inspection.Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	<u>Cattle excluding Cows</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	711	183	374	1921	209
Number inspected... ..	711	183	374	1921	209
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	63	32	24
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	252	132	5	172	121
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	35.6	73.2	18.2	10.1	69.3
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	5	3	-	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	46	50	-	-	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.3	30.1	0.9	-	7.3

During the year a special routine examination of cattle was continued for the detection of cysticercus bovis (more commonly known as "Measles" in beef). A number of carcasses were subsequently found to have one or two C.bovis and the carcasses concerned, in appropriate cases, were detained for a period of cold storage which effectively kills any parasites and renders the meat safe. No instances of a generalised condition were found.

Notifiable Diseases During the Year, 1953.

<u>Disease</u>				<u>Total Cases Notified</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	11	2	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	186	3	-
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	-	-
Measles	...	...	...	352	-	-
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia...				18	4	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)				3	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	5	-	-
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1	-	-
Dysentery	...	...	...	2	1	-

Analysis Under Age Groups

<u>Disease</u>		<u>Under 1 Year</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5- 9</u>	<u>10- 14</u>	<u>15- 19</u>	<u>20- 34</u>	<u>35- 44</u>	<u>45- 64</u>	<u>65 and over</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-	-	1	-	6	3	-	-	1	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	14	8	22	29	24	76	8	-	2	1	-	-
Measles	...	7	24	44	47	54	150	21	1	3	-	-	-
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia		3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6	-
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)		-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
Food Poisoning	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	-
Dysentery	...	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925 and Public Health Act, 1936
(Section 172)

No action was necessary during the year in accordance with the above powers.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality 1953

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	4	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
35	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
45	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	13	7	-	2	3	-	-	-

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1953

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1953, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1953)

Year of Birth	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1949 -- 1953	197	117	139	272	229	316	291	328	356	315	269	307	250	286	34	3,738
1948 or earlier	32	97	69	8	3	8	15	17	19	17	-	-	-	-	-	285

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1953

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Urban District of Ashford who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1953.

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation		1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	Total
Year of Birth																	
Primary Inoculations		34	265	20	5	-	25	141	1	3	4	3	4	-	2	-	507
Re-inforcing Inoculations		-	-	-	-	7	181	47	7	19	16	3	98	1	-	-	379
(B) Vaccination																	Before 1939
Primary Vaccination		121	77	3	3	-	4	3	2	2	1	1	-	3	-	-	9 229
Re-Vaccination		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	21 24

